

ventitious membrane two lines in thickness, the heart larger than natural, lungs healthy, liver much increased in size, without any apparent deviation from its natural structure; mesenteric glands unusually developed. A section of the tumour exhibited a uniform consistence and colour.

The preceding case proves to us the difficulty of ascertaining the existence of organic disease in the brain, and how imperfect a measure of internal mischief are external manifestations, for we cannot but suppose that this tumour, the result of slow chronic inflammation, had existed long before any constitutional derangement could have led to any suspicion of its existence; it further confirms the pathological fact, that any organ, no matter how essential to life, can submit to considerable alteration of structure, provided that such alteration is so slow and gradual as to admit of the economy's accommodating itself to it; the effusion into one ventricle only, is remarkable.—*Dublin Hospital Reports, Vol. V.*

17. *Case of Constitutional Disease, arising from a Simple Local Irritation.*—The following case, related by Dr. RENN, in the 5th Vol. of the *Dublin Hospital Reports*, is extremely interesting, as proving that a morbid poison may be generated in consequence of a local irritation, and that this poison may contaminate the entire system; and therefore tends to overturn some of the unphilosophical notions even to this day entertained by some respecting the necessarily specific nature of a number of diseases. The subject of this case was a gentleman, aged thirty-eight, of florid countenance, indicating a highly sanguineous temperament; rather corpulent, and not of very active habits. He had previously enjoyed good health, unless from occasional attacks of cynanche tonsillaris. He had been, during the past winter season, more than usually employed in anatomical pursuits, and about three weeks before he wounded himself with the pin, he received a slight cut on the thumb whilst examining a subject that had died of diseased hip-joint; the wound, however, had healed speedily and well. He has been married twelve years, has had nine healthy children, seven of which are living, and by no accident or possibility could he have contracted any syphilitic taint.

About three weeks after the first appearance of the fungus, the lymphatics of the forearm became inflamed; the inflammation extended along their course to the axilla; sixty leeches were applied, and the inflammation was subdued. About a month afterwards, an enlarged gland appeared in the axilla, which was also resolved by the application of leeches.

On the 27th of September the abscess burst, and on the 29th he went to the country emaciated and debilitated to an extent not to be explained by the effects of so small a local disease. On the 10th of October his throat felt sore, with some trifling difficulty of swallowing; he returned to Dublin, his throat was examined, and no appearance of disease was discovered, except a very slight blush of inflammation, which soon passed away. Towards the latter end of October, an eruption of scarlet patches came out on his forehead, forearms, and slightly on the shoulders and inside of the thighs. Sarsaparilla and the nitro-muriatic acid were now prescribed, and taken in considerable quantity. In this state he remained until the end of December, his throat being on one day free from uneasiness, and perhaps on the next extremely sore, the eruption sometimes disappearing entirely, sometimes showing faintly under the cuticle like fading measles, and sometimes of a bright red scarlet colour. He continued taking the sarsaparilla up to this period, with warm baths twice a week, and his general health had been improving since the sore on the thumb had healed. He got weary of taking medicine, and now discontinued it, and trusted to a nutritive diet, and the use of port wine.

Early in January, 1829, an anomalous kind of eruption appeared on his scrotum, and produced great annoyance, it was so intolerably itchy, but it scaled off and disappeared in the course of a week, without the adoption of any medical treatment whatever. On the 15th, a tender tumefaction arising

from periostitis was discovered on the left tibia, on the 19th it disappeared. On the 2d of February, an eruption similar to what had before appeared on the scrotum reappeared; it also went away without the use of medicine. During the months of March, April, and May, his throat could never be considered in a state of health, and exhibited so much variety of symptoms, both as to appearance and pain, as rendered the case inexplicable as it was curious; sometimes when there was no trace of inflammation visible, the pain would be excessive. An erythematous redness was, on the other hand, often suffused over the soft palate, and occasionally an appearance resembling abrasion of the surface, while there were no indications of exacerbation of pain. Sometimes whilst speaking, his voice would suddenly fail, and a paroxysm of cough interrupt his articulation; the cough was hard and unattended by expectoration, he would often commence eating, suffering under extreme torture in every attempt to swallow, and after a few moments he would perform deglutition without the slightest pain. In a word, these symptoms came and went alternately without any assistance being sought from medicine. But this uncertain and precarious state of health could not be borne any longer, and he determined to try the effects of mercury, though contrary to the advice of his friends, and took two grains of calomel daily for four days, when he was seized with a cough, accompanied with some hæmoptoe. The mercury was discontinued immediately, and never resumed: his mouth was made slightly sore by this quantity, his gums became spongy, and his breath foul. All the symptoms gradually and slowly declined, and he is now occasionally visited by the following:—Wandering pain in the hip-joint of the right side, and weakness which prevents exercise on foot to any considerable extent. Some few pale and almost indistinct stains of eruption on his forehead after exercise. Some broad, flat patches of eruption of a scarlet colour, but not always of the same intensity, on the back of the hands: during the last winter the skin on the palms of his hands was hard and horny, and the natural lines appeared like fissures; this has now disappeared. His throat never has been sore since he took the calomel.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

18. *Atrophy of the Mammaræ produced by Hemlock.*—Professor D'OUTREPONT, of Würzburg, relates some curious cases illustrative of the effects of hemlock in galactirrhæa. The morbid profusion of milk in the breasts, in this complaint is accompanied frequently with hysteria, hectic fever, general emaciation, with extreme dryness of skin, and impairment of the mental functions. Menstruation is suppressed, and the patient becomes sterile, or at least less apt to conceive. The local remedies commonly employed are more or less prejudicial: constitutional treatment is found to be more efficacious. Light purgatives, such as the neutral tartrate of potash in smart doses, with diuretics occasionally, and diaphoretics, are attended with good effect: bitters too, and chalybeate waters taken internally, are much to be recommended. Yet cases occur in which the secretion of milk, continuing after the weaning of a child, becomes extremely difficult to be managed; and *specifics*, in consequence, have been tried by many physicians. Hemlock has been had recourse to in a special manner. Its action on the mammary glands is remarkable; for it not only depresses their functional powers, but, if applied for any length of time, produces a complete atrophy of the mammaræ, to the full extent of rendering them barren in all future pregnancies. This has been already noticed by Professor Benedict, of Breslaw; but two cases of recent occurrence, which M. d'Outrepont adduces, may be briefly adverted to in illustration.

CASE I. An actress of much beauty was troubled for several months after her confinement with the excessive fulness of her bosom, together with a superabundant secretion of milk. All the usual remedies were tried in vain. At length